



WorkFirst Performance Report

Fiscal Year 2004

Prepared by:

Ken Miller

July 23, 2004

Report No. 12

WORKFIRST PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND WORKFIRST PROGRAM GOALS

These performance measures follow from the WorkFirst program goals. Each measure shows how we are progressing toward one more of the WorkFirst goals.

Caseload: Measures our success at reducing the number of families dependent on public assistance.

Long-term exits from welfare: Measures our success at helping families to stay off welfare.

Jobs leading to exit from TANF: Measures our success at helping WorkFirst clients find unsubsidized jobs that allow them to leave welfare.

Child support paid: Measures our success at increasing the incomes of families who are on or recently off public assistance, and increasing the percentage of families who remain self sufficient.

Alternative assistance for applicants: Measures our success at identifying alternative sources of assistance for families that make a TANF grant unnecessary.

Percent Remaining Employed: Measures our success at improving the capability of adults leaving public assistance to stay employed and increasing the percentage of families who remain self sufficient.

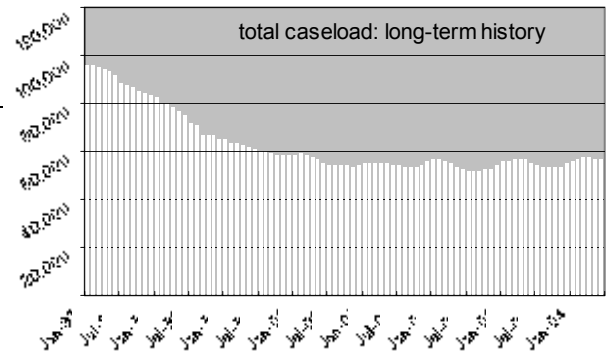
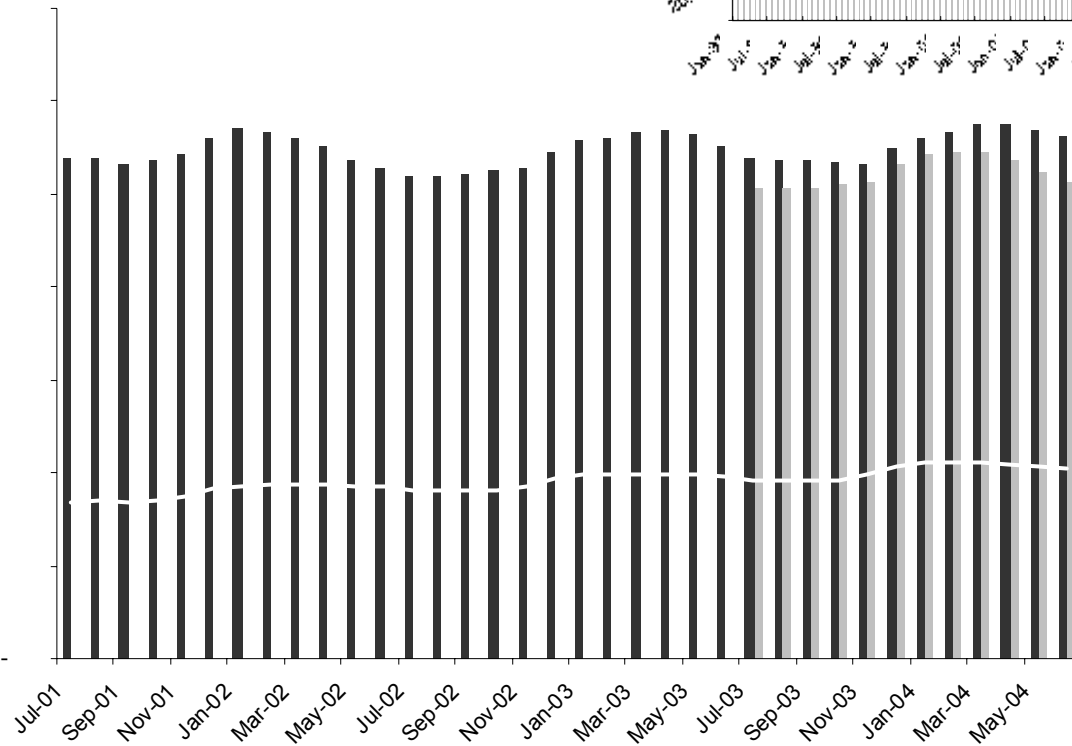
Percent increasing earnings: Measures our success in helping families increase their income after leaving welfare, and again, increasing the percentage of families who remain self sufficient.

The ability to meet the targets for each of these Performance Measures is determined in part by our success in meeting goals we have set for an array of “feeder measures”-- measures of program activities and results that, taken together, lead to our overall Performance Measures. These “feeder measures” represent the results for which agency operating managers are accountable, and are published monthly on the WorkFirst website.

WorkFirst Measure 1: Caseload

Total welfare (TANF) caseload

caseload FY04 targets child-only (white)



Goal

Reduce the number of Washington families that are dependent on public assistance.

Target

After a period of flat or rising caseloads, this target requires a return to a rate of caseload decline achieved in FY02. The target is consistent with the budget for FY04.

Experience to date

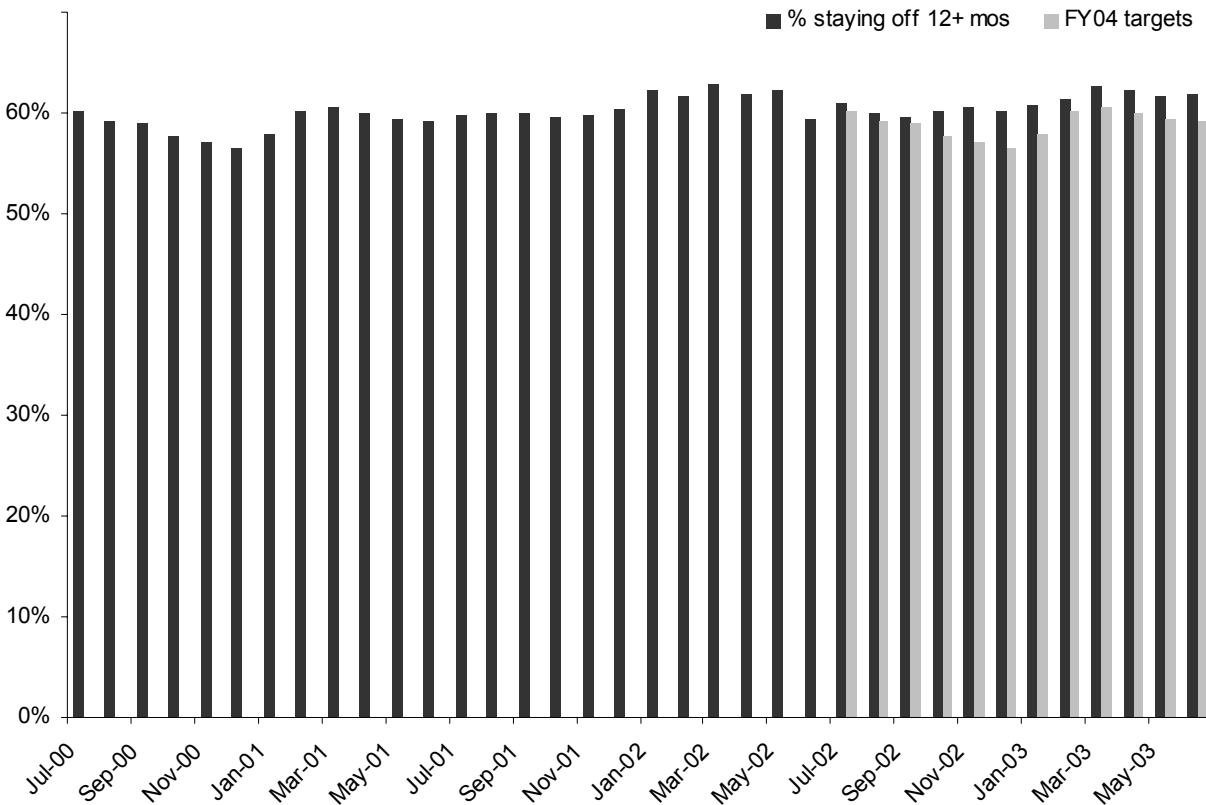
In June 2004, the TANF caseload was 56,323. This is 4,994 cases (10%) higher than the target for the month. The caseload has declined 41.7% since January 1997.

Comments

In June 2004, the child-only caseload was 20,477 cases, 36.4% of the entire caseload.

WorkFirst Measure 2: Long-term Exits from Welfare (TANF)

Percent of clients leaving TANF who remain off at least one year



Goal:

Increase the percentage of families who remain self-sufficient after leaving TANF.

Target:

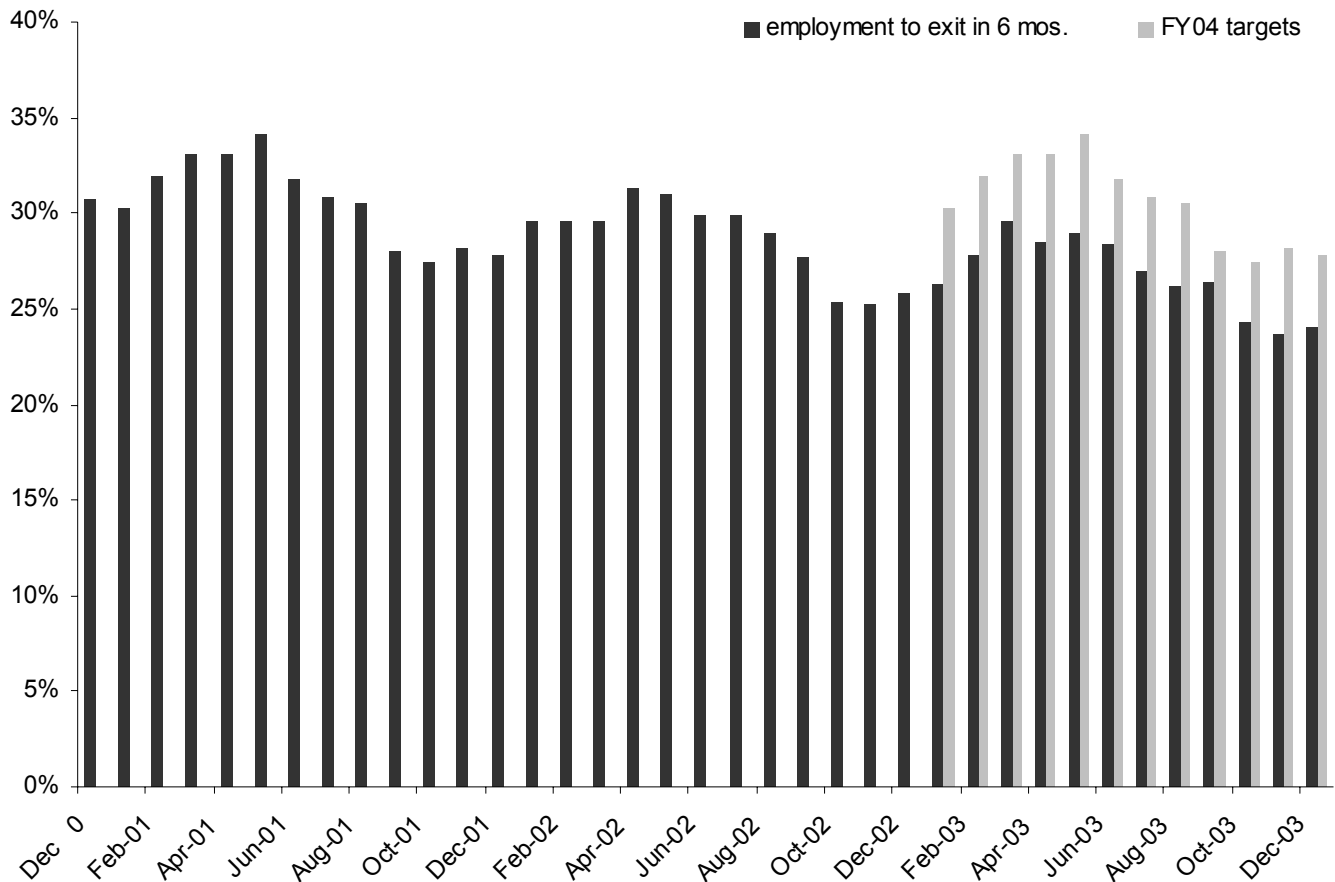
Return to or maintain FY 2002 actual performance levels in the face of a continued economic slowdown and significant budget reductions.

Experience to Date:

In June 2004, 61.8% of May 2003 exiters had been off TANF for twelve consecutive months. This is 2.7 percentage points above the target of 59.1%.

WorkFirst Measure 3: Jobs Leading to Exits from TANF

Percent of entering clients who get a job and leave TANF within six months



Goal:

Increase the number of clients moving from WorkFirst to employment to self-sufficiency.

Target:

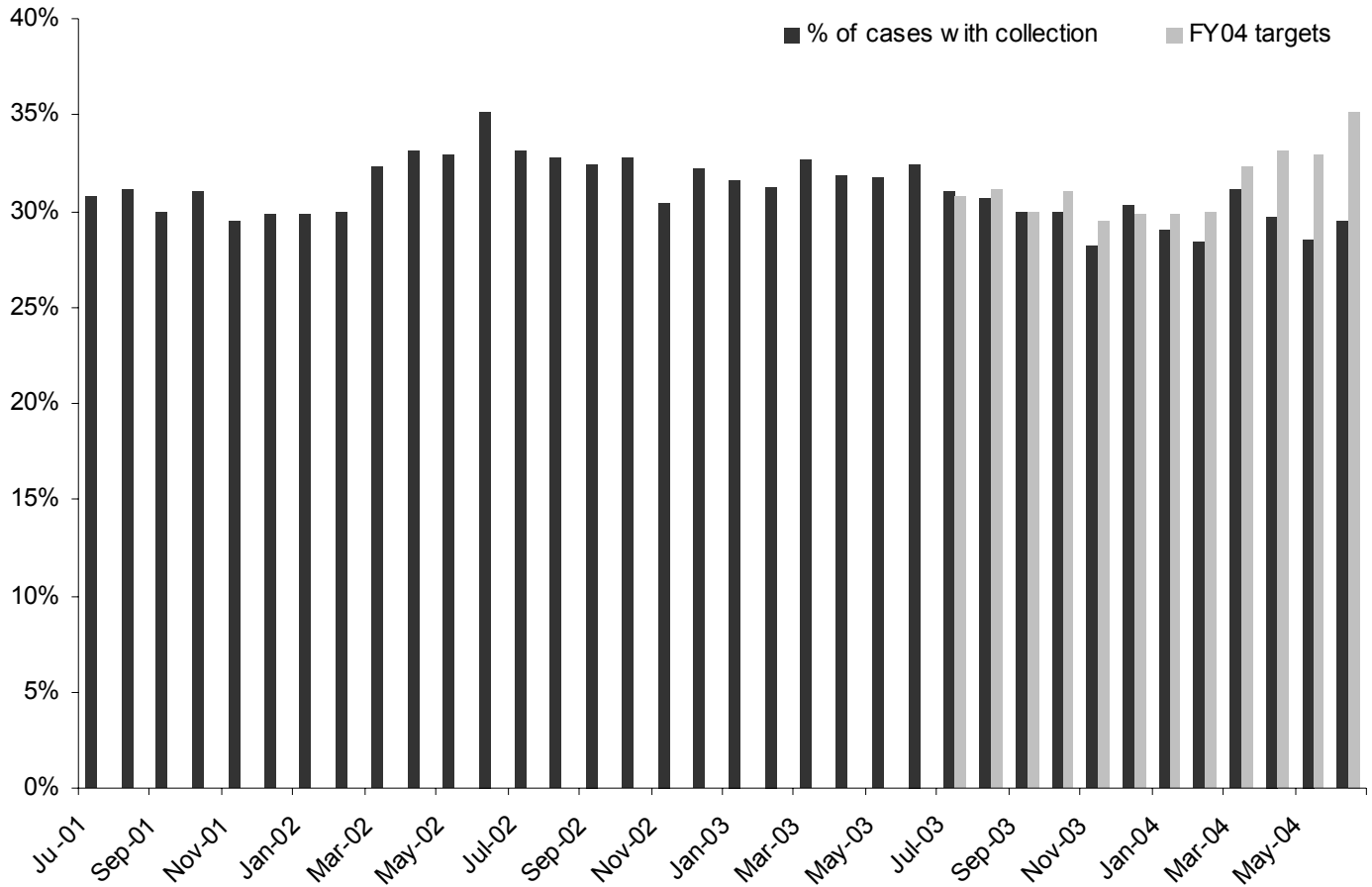
Return to or maintain FY 2002 actual performance levels in the face of a continued economic slowdown and significant budget reductions.

Experience to Date:

Among clients who entered TANF in December 2003, 24.1% became employed and left TANF within six months. This is 3.7 percentage points below the target of 27.8% for this month.

WorkFirst Measure 4: Child Support Paid

Percent of current and recent TANF clients (exited within twelve months) with paid child support



Goal:

Increase incomes of families who are or were receiving public assistance with the child support due from non-custodial parents.

Target:

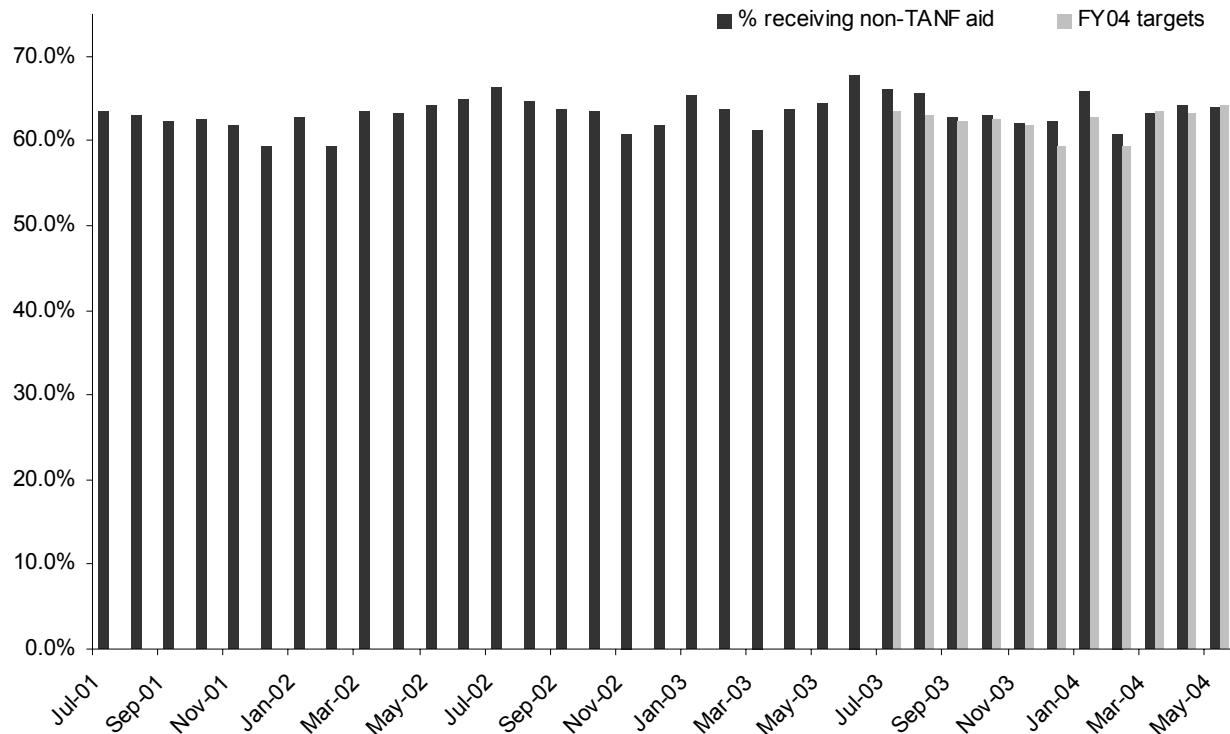
Return to or maintain FY 2002 actual performance levels in the face of a continued economic slowdown and significant budget reductions.

Experience to Date:

In June 2004, 29.4% of current and recent TANF recipient child support cases received at least one payment. This is 5.8 percentage points below the target of 34.1%.

WorkFirst Measure 5: Alternative Assistance for Applicants

Percent of TANF applicants who received alternative services instead of a TANF grant



Goal:

Increase the percentage of families who apply for TANF, who are eligible, but for whom TANF becomes unnecessary when alternative sources of support are identified.

Target:

Return to or maintain FY 2002 actual performance levels in the face of a continued economic slowdown and significant budget reductions.

Experience to Date:

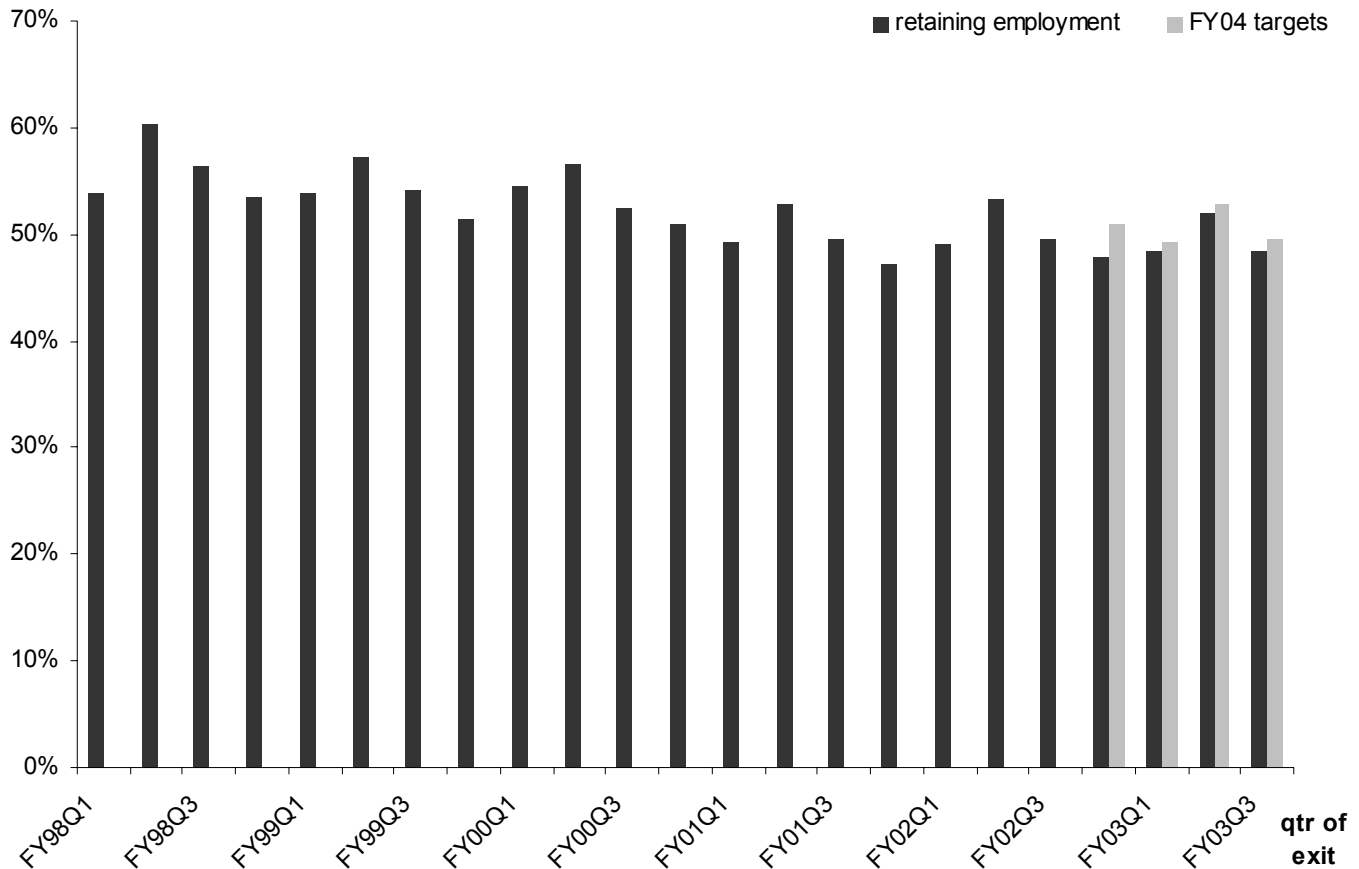
63.9% of applicants who withdrew their TANF applications in May 2004 began to receive Basic Food, Medicaid, job placement assistance, unemployment benefits, Working Connections Child Care, or a diversion assistance grant in May 2004 or June 2004. This is 0.3 percentage points below the target of 64.2%.

Comments

Data is revised in subsequent months, with a trend towards slight revisions upwards in recent months' percentages.

WorkFirst Measure 6: Percent Remaining Employed

Percent of clients remaining employed after leaving TANF



Goal:

Improve the capability of adults who leave welfare for work to remain employed.

Target:

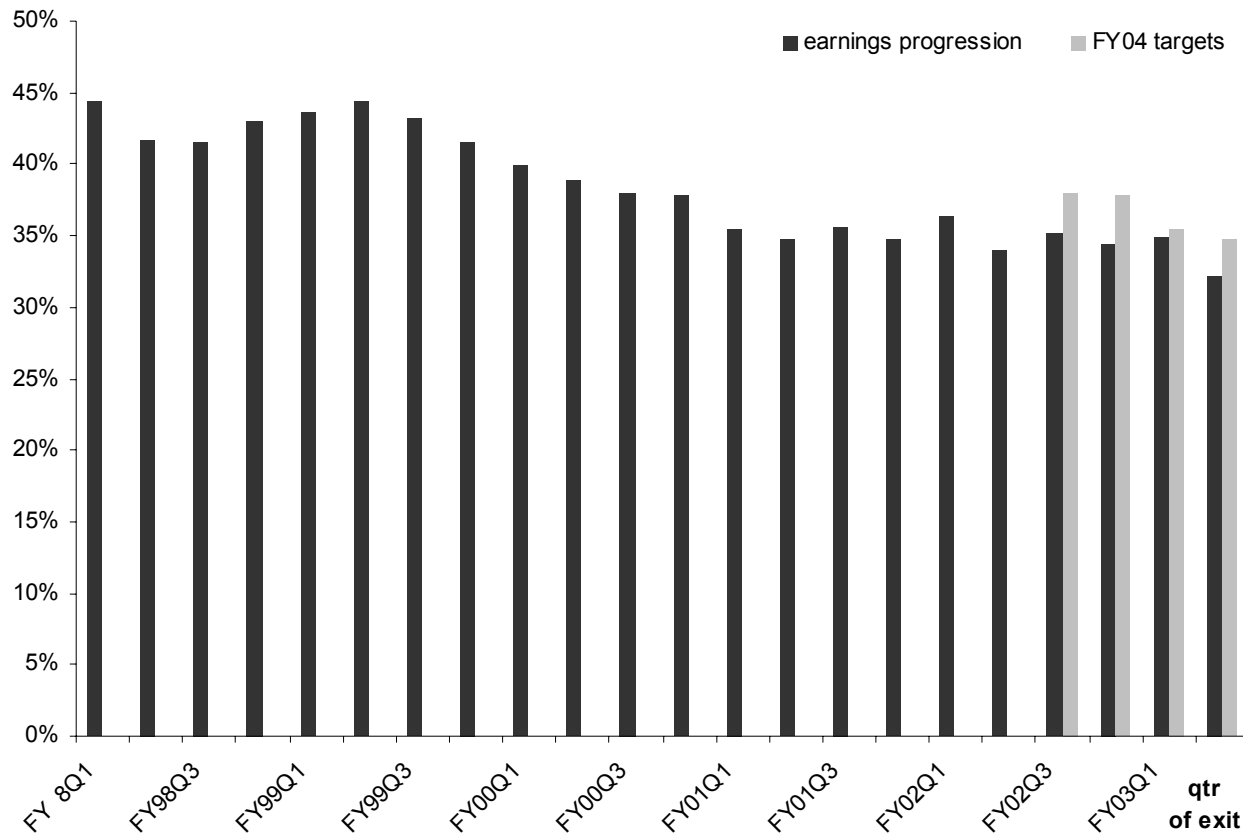
Return to or maintain FY 2002 actual performance levels in the face of a continued economic slowdown and significant budget reductions.

Experience to Date:

Among clients leaving TANF for work in FY2003Q3, 48.6% earned at least \$2500 per quarter for four consecutive quarters. This is .9 percentage points below the target of 49.5%.

WorkFirst Measure 7: Percent Increasing Earnings

Percent of clients leaving welfare whose earnings increased by 10% after one year



Goal:

Increase the earnings of former TANF recipients.

Target:

Return to or maintain FY 2002 actual performance levels in the face of a continued economic slowdown and significant budget reductions.

Experience to Date:

Among clients leaving TANF for work in FY2003Q2, 32.2% increased their earnings by at least 10% in the first year. This is 2.6 percentage points below the target of 34.8%.